

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 22

1. THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE
MARCH 22 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

2. Q: ANYTHING YET ON THE ZAIRE REQUEST FOR AID?

A: NO. NOTHING TO GIVE YOU ON THAT BEYOND YESTERDAY.
WE'RE STILL STUDYING THE REQUEST. WE OF COURSE WILL
CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS BEFORE REACHING A FINAL
DECISION.

3. Q: ON THAT, NBC REPORTS THAT WHILE YOU DECLINED TO
PROVIDE ANY DETAILS OF WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED BY ZAIRE
THAT "OTHER SOURCES SAY THAT ZAIRE IS ASKING FOR RIFLES,
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MORTARS AND OTHER ARTILLERY" MY-QUESTION TWOFOLD, IS THIS
REPORT ACCURATE? AND ON THE SAME SUBJECT, DOES THE
STATE DEPARTMENT NOW HAVE ANY REASON, VIS-A-VIS THE
PRESIDENT'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, TO JUSTIFY SENDING
MILLIONS IN SUPPLIES TO MOBUTU INSTEAD OF THE KATANGANS?

A: ON THE FIRST QUESTION, I TOLD YOU I'M NOT GOING

TO GET INTO A QUESTION OR GIVE YOU A LIST OF WHAT'S

UNDER CONSIDERATION. ON THE SECOND, YOU ASK THAT QUESTION YESTERDAY, AND....

4. Q: I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE AN ANSWER TODAY.

A: NO, I DON'T.

5. Q: NO ANSWER TODAY, NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ALL...?

A: I GAVE YOU AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WHOLE THING WHEN THE ZAIRE QUESTION AROSE WHAT OUR JUSTIFICATION WAS, AND THIS WAS ELABORATED ON I BELIEVE, AT THE WHITE HOUSE IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, WITH REGARD TO REPLYING TO A REQUEST FROM A GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS AND A MILITARY-SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND RESPONDING TO ITS REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

6. Q: HAS THE SITUATION WORSENERED IN ZAIRE MILITARILY REQUIRING A NEW SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST?

A: I CAN'T SAY THE SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST IS A RESULT OF ANY CHANGE IN THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. THE INFORMATION I HAVE IS THAT THERE REALLY HAS BEEN NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

7. Q: HOW WOULD YOU THEN JUSTIFY THE ADDITIONAL REQUEST?

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A: I'M NOT JUSTIFYING IT, I'M MERELY SAYING THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THE REQUEST AND THAT WE'VE STUDYING IT.

8. Q: IS IT A LARGER REQUEST THAN THE ORIGINAL REQUEST?

A: I CAN'T GET INTO THE NATURE OF THE REQUEST.

9. Q: IT'S GOT TO BE LARGER BECAUSE THE FIRST ONE WE WERE TOLD WAS COMPLETELY MET, WEREN'T WE?

A: LARGER MONETARILY?

10. Q: DIDN'T MR. VANCE TESTIFY THAT THEY HAD GOTTEN EVERYTHING THAT THEY ASKED FOR?

A: YEAH, THE TWO AIRPLANE LOADS CONSTITUTED A 100 FULFILLMENT OF THEIR INITIAL REQUEST. THIS IS A SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST.

11. Q: WHEN SECRETARY VANCE TESTIFIED LAST WEEK THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MET ALL THE REQUEST, WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED UP UNTIL THAT TIME.

12, Q: YES, I KNOW IT IS AND THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO EXPLORE IT A BIT, AND HE WAS ASKED IF HE HAD ANY IDEA WHAT WOULD BE REQUESTED IN THE FUTURE AND HE INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT. NOW THE FACT THAT AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED AFTER ZAIRE HAS RECEIVED SHIPMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, FROM BELGIUM, AND I BELIEVE FROM FRANCE, PRESUMABLY WOULD INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN MUCH MORE DIRE STRAIGHTS, THAN I BELIEVE IT WAS WHEN IT MADE ITS ORIGINAL REQUEST. WOULD IT NOT? EITHER THAT...

A: NO, I DON'T THINK YOU COULD DRAW THAT CONCLUSION. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T DRAW THAT CONCLUSION. THE INITIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ZAIRIAN REQUEST WAS MADE RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE INVASION AND WE ACTED ON THAT RATHER QUICKLY. AND WITH THE DISPATCH OF THE AIRCRAFT YESTERDAY, THAT SATISFIED THAT INITIAL REQUEST.

13. WELL, I'M NOT TRYING TO CHARACTERIZE THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION. I'M SEEKING INFORMATION ON IT. THE REPORTS FROM ZAIRE SPEAK OF INCREASED GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITY AGAINST THE INTRUDING FORCES. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU CAN GIVE US IN TERMS OF A READING....

A: I CAN'T. THE ONLY THING I HAVE IS THAT THE FIGHTING CONTINUES, WHICH IS NO SECRET, AND THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT APPRECIABLY CHANGED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS...

14. Q: HAVE THEY RECAPTURED THAT TOWN OF KISAJI, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW.

A: I DON'T. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A CONFIRMATION ON THAT. AS I SAY RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE IN A SIT-REP SITUATION, BUT AGAIN I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU A CONFIRMATION.

15: YOU SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL DISCUSS THIS WITH CONGRESS BEFORE REACHING A DECISION. WILL THE ADMINISTRATION SEEK CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHAT FORM THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION WOULD TAKE, BUT CERTAINLY, WE INTEND TO AND WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING THE KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INFORMED ON IT.

Q: ISN'T IT A FACT THAT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IN THESE SUPPLIES IS THE ALLOCATION OF ALREADY APPROPRIATED FMS MONEY WHICH FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER OVER THE PAST

FISCAL YEAR AND TRANSITION QUARTER OF '76 HAS NOT BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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DRAWN DOWN?

A: WOULD HAVE BEEN DRAWN DOWN IN THE FUTURE, OR IT'S BEING SPEEDED UP, OR HASN'T BEEN DRAWN DOWN IN THE PAST, THAT'S CORRECT.

17. Q: COULD YOU GET FOR US SOME KIND OF BOOKEEPING ON THIS AS TO HOW MUCH MONEY HAS NOT IN FACT BEEN DELIVERED? HOW MUCH IN THE WAY OF SUPPLIES HAS NOT BEEN DELIVERED?

A: I COULD ASK THE DOD TO GET THAT I SUPPOSE. THE VALUE OF THIS SHIPMENT AS I TOLD YOU, THE SECOND AIRCRAFT, AS I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY IS ABOUT \$600,000 AS CLOSE AS WE CAN COMPUTE IT AND ABOUT \$400,000 FOR HANDLING AND FOR AIR TRANSPORT FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,000,000,000.

18. Q: ISN'T THAT SHIPMENT BETWEEN 1 AND 2 MILLION DOLLARS TOTAL COMING OUT OF THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER FUNDS OF \$10.1 MILLION?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS TRANSITIONAL OR WHAT PART OF FY 77.

19. Q: DID YOU COVER YESTERDAY HOW EXPENSIVE THE HANDLING WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE IF YOU HADN'T DECIDED TO GO TO THE CIVILIAN ROUTE?

A: WELL, I AM TOLD THAT ACTUALLY IT IS CHEAPER, ACCOUNTING WISE TO DO IT BY THE CHARTER AIRCRAFT ROUTE. I AM TOLD THAT NOW I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ACCOUNTING BREAKDOWN ON HOW THAT WOULD WORK. BUT I'M TOLD THAT IT IS MORE FAVORABLE FINANCIALLY SPEAKING TO DO IT THIS WAY RATHER THAN DOING IT THROUGH US AIR FORCE AIR CRAFT.

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20. Q: IN THAT CASE I WONDER IF YOU COULD ASK DOD

WHY WE KEEP MILITARY TRANSPORT?

A: PERHAPS THEY USE IT FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

21. Q: CAN YOU GIVE US NOW A CUMULATIVE FIGURE? I
DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE A FIGURE ON THE SHIPMENT AND
HANDLING COST FOR THE FIRST ONE?

A: I WAS TOLD THE TOTAL COST WAS UNDER 500,000 DOLLARS
AND FOR THIS ONE IT WOULD BE ROUGHLY 1 MILLION. AGAIN,
THIS IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET A PRECISE FIGURE ON THE
HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION.

22. Q: WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS ONE?

A: SECOND AIRCRAFT THAT LEFT YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS A 747.

23. Q: AND THIS NEW REQUEST, HOW MUCH IS IT?

A: I TOLD YOU I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO DETAILS. GOOD TRY.

24. A: HAVE WE CONSULTED THE ALLIES ON THIS NEW REQUEST
YET?

A: I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

25. Q: WOULD YOU TAKE IT, THE QUESTION, BECAUSE THERE
IS SOME THEORY THAT YOU MAY BE COORDINATING WITH YOUR
ALLIES AS WELL AS CONSULTING WITH THEM.

A: WELL, WE ARE IN FREQUENT CONSULTATION.

Q: WELL, THEY MAY HELP YOU MAKE A DECISION.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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